

VZCZCXRO6350
PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHKO #3238 1640224
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 130224Z JUN 06
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3138
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6690
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 9924
RUEHB/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2758
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1087
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8929
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0713
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 003238

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OITP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION IRAQ AND BUSH RESHUFFLES -
TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Tuesday morning papers front-paged Japan's loss to Australia in their Monday World Cup match in Germany.

¶1. "Hasn't President Bush Forgotten to Dismiss One More Senior Official?" The liberal Asahi editorialized (6/13): "Public support for President Bush remains low. With this falls mid-term elections in mind, it appears that Mr. Bush has been reshuffling senior administration officials in rapid succession in order to rebuild the foundation of his administration. During the past several months, the president reshuffled his White House chief of staff, OMB, USTR, White House press secretary and CIA director. More recently, President Bush has sacked Treasury Secretary Snow and nominated Goldman Sachs Chairman Paulson as his replacement. Isn't there still another senior administration official that the president has forgotten to discharge? Such calls may rise from both home and abroad against Defense Secretary Rumsfeld....

¶2. "Although a new, formal government has been formed in Iraq, terrorist attacks have continued against both innocent civilians and US troops. Few predict that the US killing of al-Zarqawi will help improve the security situation in that country. With US military fatalities exceeding the 2,400 level and US war expenditures for 2006 expected to top 100 billion USD, it is only natural that the popularity of President Bush has declined. Mr. Rumsfeld is not only being held responsible for creating an Iraq quagmire but also faces calls from retired army generals that he step down.... President Bush called the Abu Ghraib scandal the biggest US mistake made in Iraq. In that case, the president should not only close down military prisons at Guantanamo and other places but also

thoroughly probe into the alleged massacre of innocent civilians in Iraq. We do wonder whether the president cannot fire Mr. Rumsfeld out of concern that his discharge would imply responsibility for the situation on both Vice President Cheney and himself."

SCHIEFFER